

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*

Debtors.¹

PROMESA
Title III

Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS
(Jointly Administered)

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER
AUTHORITY,

Debtor.

PROMESA
Title III

Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS

**JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS OBJECTION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE
PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY'S PLAN OF ADJUSTMENT**

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¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747). (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations.)

TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

COMES NOW JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS, as party in interest pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1109, appearing *pro se* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1654, and respectfully requests that the Court deny the confirmation of the Modified Second Amended Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, ECF No. 3296 (“Plan of Adjustment”).

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. **JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS** is a party in interest in the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority’s (“PREPA”) Title III Bankruptcy. See 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).
2. I, **JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS**, am a resident of San Juan, Puerto Rico. I am retired after working the *Cooperativa de Seguros Múltiples de Puerto Rico* for 23 years. I live in a household of three, including myself, my wife, Aida J. Alicea Rodríguez, and my sister-in-law who is cognitively impaired since birth. My wife is cardiac patient and suffers from high blood pressure.
3. The question of who is a “party in interest” should be answered on a case-by-case basis. The definition is non-exhaustive. It generally refers to anyone with a financial stake or significant legal or practical stake in the outcome of bankruptcy. See, for example, Savage & Assocs. P.C. v. K&L Gates LLP (In re Teligent, Inc.), 640 F.3d 53 (2d Cir. 2011). That should mean anyone who will be significantly impacted.
4. **The Plan of Adjustment proposes to impose a Legacy Charge on the electric bills of residential and commercial customers for the next 35 years or more.** In April 2023, my household’s electricity payment was of \$154.49. This bill fluctuates every month. But there has been a consistent and dramatic increase in my residential electricity bill. Due to these increases, my family is often forced to stop paying for certain basic goods in order to cover

other services. We can barely leave the home to partake in outdoor activities because of the rising costs of transportation, gas, food, and consumer goods in Puerto Rico. If power goes out in our home –which happens recurringly– we have to pay for diesel gasoline to fuel an electric power generator, since my sister-in-law’s medical need requires constant energy services in the home. With the proposed Plan’s electricity rate increases, my household will have to pay around 13% more of what we currently pay per month for energy. These increases will definitely affect my family’s finances. At this time, me and my wife are under a Chapter 13 bankruptcy process. Our joint incomes add up to \$3,688/month, and our most basic expenses –such as food and housing— exceed our income. Starting in June 2023, I began paying the bankruptcy trustee \$1,862/month, which greatly imbalances our budget and our ability to afford essential services and goods. The Plan’s increases in electricity rates will also affect my family’s ability to cover the costs of gas and tolls required to visit my 98 year-old mother who lives in the municipality of Guayama. In the past, I was able to visit my mom once a week. Today, however, because of increased costs, I have to pay over \$60 (between gas and tolls) for every visit to my mother. I simply cannot afford this amount, and am forced to visit her only once every three weeks. If this Plan is approved –because my family’s income is fixed– it will prevent me from undertaking fundamental activities (that any human should be able to enjoy), such as visiting my elderly mother and taking care of her in her final days.

5. Therefore, **JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS** is a party in interest that “may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this chapter.” 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

6. For over a decade, Puerto Rico’s economy has been in trouble and, by 2016, its massive debt became unsustainable. On June 30, 2016, PROMESA was signed into law. 48 U.S.C. § 2101

et seq. It created Title III to allow the territory access to bankruptcy relief for its instrumentalities. On July 2, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (“Oversight Board”) initiated a Title III case for PREPA. On December 16, 2022, the Oversight Board filed the first *Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*. This has been amended 3 times. The current version of the Plan of Adjustment was filed on March 1, 2023.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

7. Section 314 of PROMESA has the requirements for the confirmation of a Plan of Adjustment. 48 U.S.C. § 2174(b).

The Title III court shall confirm a plan of adjustment so long as certain requirements are met, including that: the debtor is not prohibited by law from taking any action necessary to carry out the plan; . . . any legislative, regulatory, or electoral approval necessary under applicable law in order to carry out any provision of the plan has been obtained, or such provision is expressly conditioned on such approval; . . . [and] the plan is feasible. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. v. Federacion de Maestros de P.R., Inc. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.), 32 F.4th 67, 76 (1st Cir. 2022)(citation omitted).

8. The Plan of Adjustment is not feasible for the reasons stated in the expert declarations of Mr. Tom Sanzillo, ECF No. 3416; Dr. José I. Alameda Lozada, ECF No. 3417, Mr. Agustín Irizarry, ECF No. 3414.
9. “Under PROMESA, a plan of adjustment must be supported by financial projections that are ‘reasonable and demonstrate a probability that the debtor will be able to satisfy its obligations under the Plan.’” In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd., 637 B.R. 223, 302-03 (D.P.R. 2022).
10. This means asking: “Is it likely that the debtor, after the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment, will be able to sustainably provide basic municipal services to the citizens of the debtor and to meet the obligations contemplated in the Plan without the significant probability of a default?” Id.

11. The Plan of Adjustment will affect Puerto Rico's economy and ratepayers, such as **JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS**. Therefore, PREPA will not be able to generate enough revenue and comply with its obligations to creditors or to the people of Puerto Rico. Because of this, the Plan of Adjustment is not feasible.

CONCLUSION

12. In conclusion, this Court should not confirm the Plan of Adjustment because it does not meet the requirements under PROMESA. Additionally, the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment would cause great prejudice to **JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS** and the people of Puerto Rico.
13. PREPA's restructuring is very important, because electric power is necessary both for consumers and businesses alike. It is the driving force of Puerto Rico's economy. If PREPA's restructuring becomes too burdensome on the people and businesses of Puerto Rico, it will affect any possibility of economic growth and development.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, JUAN VAZQUEZ RAMOS respectfully requests that the Court take notice of the above stated and deny the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this same date I conventionally filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court. A copy of this document will be emailed to case participants.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 9th day of June 2023.



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